

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 10167 221423Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6960

S E C R E T ATHENS 10167

EXDIS

FOR EUR ONLY

PERSONAL FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. ON HIS WAY BACK FROM AFRICA, THE SECRETARY IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A REFUELING STOP IN CRETE EARLY THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 23RD. BITSIOS SAYS HE HAS TO REAMIN IN ATHENS THAT EVENING FOR LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS FOR HIS DEPARTURE FRIDAY MORNING FOR NEW YORK AND ANTICIPATED WEEKEND MEETINGS WITH CAGLAYANGIL, SO HE AND CARAMANLIS ARE SENDING JOHN TZOUNIS TO CRETE TO GREET AND BE AVAILABLE FOR A SHORT MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY DURING HIS STOPOVER.

2. AS I AM SURE YOU REALIZE, THE SECRETARY COULD GIVE OUR EFFORTS TO FINISH THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS A MIGHTY BOOST IF HE WEIGHED IN REALLY HEAVILY ON THIS SUBJECT WITH TZOUNIS WHEN HE SEES HIM. INDEED, TZOUNIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE A FULL, PERSONAL REPORT TO CARAMANLIS AND HIS TOP MINISTERS ON WHATEVER THE SECRETARY SAYS TO HIM. SINCE WE HAVE BEEN STRAINING SO HARD HERE IN RECENT DAYS TO WRAP UP THE NEGOTIATIONS -- AND STRESSING HOW IMPORTANT THEY WERE TO THE USG AND TOPMOST U.S. OFFICIALS -- UNLESS THE SECRETARY TAKES
SECRET

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 10167 221423Z

THE SAME LINE AND RE-ENFORCES OUR POSITION, TZOUNIS

MIGHT END UP REPORTING TO CARAMANLIS AND THE GOG THAT
WE HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCLUDING
THESE NEGOTIATIONS THIS MONTH.

3. SINCE YOU ARE RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS IN WASHINGTON
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEND THE SECRETARY A
SPECIAL MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT. IF YOU DO, FEEL FREE
TO MENTION THE IMPORTANCE I ATTACH TO IT -- AND I
WILL FOLLOW UP AS BEST I CAN LOCALLY.
KUBISCH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS10167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760357-1092
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760934/aaaabcxv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY <MCM 20040528 CORRECTION>; ONLY, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040528
Subject: U.S.-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006